

Every Woman Matters



- o Every Woman Matters is a federally funded program for breast and cervical cancer and cardiovascular and diabetes screening. The program provides screening services to medically underserved women ages 40 to 64. The funding agency is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- o Nebraska receives about \$3 million annually to provide screening and diagnostic tests, public education, professional education, surveillance, evaluation, and quality assurance activities.
- o Started in 1992, Nebraska was one of the first twelve participating states. Today, all 50 states, 9 tribal organizations, and several U.S. territories participate in this breast and cervical cancer screening program. Nebraska is one of only twelve state programs with funding to offer cardiovascular and diabetes screening. In September 2005, Nebraska was one of five programs awarded funding to offer colorectal cancer screening.
- o Nebraska has statewide coverage for services. Approximately 775 health care clinics/offices, hospitals, mammography facilities/radiology groups, and laboratories perform services for Every Woman Matters.
- o All counties in Nebraska are served by community partners who promote the availability of Every Woman Matters, enroll eligible clients, and implement health education activities in their local communities. Additional community partners decrease barriers for clients and help clients access the health care that they require.
- o All providers in Nebraska are served by contracted Case Managers in order to decrease barriers for clients and to help clients access the health care that they need and deserve.
- o More than 51,000 women have enrolled in Every Woman Matters. Since the program started in 1992, Every Woman Matters has screened 42,429 women, diagnosed 446 women with breast cancer, and diagnosed 38 women with invasive cervical cancer.
- o Women eligible for screening services through Every Woman Matters are 40 through 64 years of age, fall within the program's income guidelines, and are neither Medicaid beneficiaries nor do they belong to Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs).
- o Every Woman Matters partners with the Susan G. Komen Nebraska Race for the Cure Affiliate to expand program services and to pay for more diagnostic exams.



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- o According to the 2002 Nebraska Cancer Registry, 1,560 Nebraska women were diagnosed with breast cancer, including 1,371 invasive cases and 266 in situ cases. In 2003, 244 women died from breast cancer and 14 died from invasive cervical cancer.
- o In 1995, the State Legislature authorized Every Woman Matters to raise funds to help women pay for diagnostic procedures. The Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory Committee and the Every Woman Matters Foundation were created to assist with this task. To date, the BCCAC and Foundation have assisted 86 women with diagnosis and treatment.
- o In 2001, Nebraska's Medicaid Treatment Bill (LB677) passed in the Legislature. Women diagnosed with cancer or pre-cancer of the breast or cervix through Every Woman Matters, after September 1, 2001, are eligible for treatment through Nebraska Medicaid. To date, 678 women diagnosed through the program have accessed the Medicaid Treatment Bill for reimbursement for their cancer treatment.
- o Every Woman Matters pays for office visits with associated Pap tests, pelvic exams, clinical breast exams and lab fees. Age appropriate mammography is also covered as well as a limited number of diagnostic tests.
- o Since 2002, Every Woman Matters has made preventive tests for cardiovascular and diabetes available. These tests include blood pressure, lipid panel check, triglyceride check, and a health risk appraisal. Personalized education and information are provided to clients to help them, and all Nebraska women, live healthier lives. Every Woman Matters has diagnosed 995 new cases of hypertension, 991 new cases of high cholesterol, and 224 new cases of diabetes since 2002.
- o In 1990 (before the program began), only 46% of women 50 and older had a mammogram in the previous 2 years. By 1997 (5 years after the program began), that number jumped to 68%. In 2002, 75% of Nebraska women 50 and older reported having a mammogram in the past 2 years.
- o Every Woman Matters will receive \$125,000 for the next three years from the American Cancer Society to help pay for mammography and breast ultrasounds.

** Data as of 1/2006

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